

weekly shrimp catch and effort, and monthly estimates of the number of trips (nominal effort) for major North Carolina fisheries.

Recreational Statistics

Recreational catch statistics are available from the NMFS Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey, which was standardized in its present form in 1979. Its main purpose has been to provide reliable regional (Gulf, South Atlantic) estimates of catch, effort, and participation. This survey also collects limited biological and socioeconomic data. Beginning in 1987, the DMF expanded the sampling program to obtain statistically valid recreational catch estimates for North Carolina using the same survey design. The survey consists of telephone interviews and intercept interviews which, when combined, produce estimates of recreational catch by species, fishing effort, and participation by mode (party/charter boat, private/rental boat, shore/pier). In addition, data on area of fishing are obtained through the intercept interviews, but estimates of catches by area are not statistically valid.

Fishery-Dependent Sampling

The DMF conducts several coastwide biological sampling programs of the major commercial fisheries. The objectives of these programs are to obtain relative abundance, distribution, species and age compositions and size distribution on an annual basis to aid in the development of management plans and regulations. Sampling includes the following fisheries:

1. Long haul seine fishery
2. Winter trawl fishery
3. Sciaenid pound net fishery
4. Ocean sink net fishery
5. Reef fish and coastal pelagics fisheries
6. Albemarle Sound area shad and river herring fisheries
7. Albemarle Sound area striped bass fisheries
8. Mechanical clam fishery (CPUE estimates only)

Fishery-Independent Surveys

The DMF conducts several fishery-independent surveys within North Carolina waters. The objectives of these programs are to provide an index of relative abundance for important species, age and growth data, and distribution. These surveys provide information on year class strength and/or biological data on species not adequately sampled from the commercial or recreational fisheries. These programs include: